

THE KENTUCKY IRISH AMERICAN

Has celebrated its anniversary, entering upon its Fifth Volume. The promises made to its readers and friends in the first issue have been faithfully observed, and its circulation has enjoyed a steady growth. This should be increased in the future until it is read in the home of every Irish-American in Kentucky and adjoining States. The Kentucky Irish American for the coming year will make features of

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Home News,
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KENTUCKY IRISH AMERICAN
326 WEST GREEN STREET.

MINE KING.

The Romantic Rise From Poverty of Thomas F. Walsh.

How the Tipperary Millwright Struck It Rich in Colorado.

Splendid Housing of His Miners in Well-Appointed Hotel.

HOW HE MET KING LEOPOLD

Thomas F. Walsh, of Colorado, has had thrust upon him a more glittering advertisement than any other American millionaire of his generation. He is invited to become the partner of a king. This has called attention to his career from poor boy to millionaire—a marvel in a land of marvels. Mr. Walsh has been spoken of as the actual partner of King Leopold of Belgium. This is a premature announcement. He is far too canny a business man to enter into business dealing with any man, even a king, without first making sure of his ground.

Thomas F. Walsh is the newest of great millionaires. As a man of might he is only three years old. As a man of fame he dates only from the summer of this year, when he went to Paris in the ornamental capacity of Commissioner at the Exposition and spent a heap of money winning and dining the people whom it is the proper thing for rich Americans to wine and dine. Nobody knows how rich he is. The estimates of his acquaintances range from \$35,000,000 to \$45,000,000. In Europe last summer he was reported to have refused an offer of \$35,000,000 for the Camp Bird gold mine, which yields him an income of \$100,000 a month.

His history resembles in a general way the histories of the "forty-niners" who made huge fortunes, but it stands out with greater individuality because his luck came in 1897. Like most of the forty-niners, he was of humble origin. Like Mackay, Fair and others, he was born in Ireland.

They grow fine men in Tipperary, where Thomas F. Walsh was born. Fine, tall, sinewy men, good fighters, good workers, good lovers, good haters. Tipperary is famous for them. Most of them have ruddy complexions and hair. Thomas F. Walsh represents the true Tipperary type, and even today he has a fascinating trace of the Tipperary brogue. But even from his appearance alone almost any Irishman would guess that he was a "Tip."

In those early years in Ireland he worked as a millwright. He came to America in the steerage. After working at various occupations in the East for a few years he struck out for Colorado. It was at the time of the Leadville boom. Walsh established a hotel. It paid big profit. Better still, it made Walsh beloved to the human floss and jetsam of the frontier, for it was not in his big Irish heart to refuse shelter and food to any man whether in luck or out of it.

In his spare time he studied mining, arrived at some original theories on the subject and dreamed of a great fortune. He made it a regular practice to "grub stake" prospecting parties, in consideration of a share in the profits, if any. One such party in 1876 struck something rich in the Black Hills. Walsh sold his share in the mine for \$100,000, and that was the foundation of his fortune. Four years ago Mr. Walsh came to the conclusion that there were valuable deposits of gold and silver in the high regions around the Ouray district. Old miners laughed at him, but he staked out claims and set gangs of men at work.

The reward of his sagacity and pluck was the Camp Bird mine, now one of the richest gold mines in the world. It has yielded \$3,000,000 in three years. Walsh shrewdly bought up all the surrounding claims that he could, and as a number of his earlier mines are now paying handsomely, his income must be between \$1,500,000 and \$2,000,000 a year.

People in Colorado say that Mr. Walsh handsomely earned the right to give Arabian Nights entertainments in Paris by first extending generous hospitality to his own employees. For, in addition to making Camp Bird the best equipped gold mine in the world, he endowed it with the best equipped hotel that any mere mining settlement can boast, and housed those who work for him as miners are not accustomed to being housed.

Pay? Oh, no. This is not one of Walsh's paying enterprises. He loses money on it, but it contents him that the men who dig his fortune out of the ground are happy and self-respecting. Long before he grew rich—twenty-one years ago, in fact—Walsh married Miss Carrie Reed, a South Wisconsin girl. She, although her early horizon was limited, possessed all the gifts that should belong to a rich man's wife. This became apparent when for the sake of her health the family left the rarefied air of Colorado in favor of Washington. They lived in the former home of Mrs. Annie Jenness Miller, the author and lecturer, which Walsh purchased.

Much has been printed recently about Walsh's \$40,000 dinner, his boating afternoon on the Seine, when he converted a river steamboat into a floating palace, and his other hospitalities. More important than any others for the purposes of this article was his dinner to King Leopold of Belgium. This was in the banquet hall of the Hotel Ritz, where Thaw had given his celebrated "beauty dinner." Of the wines and estates and decorations it is unnecessary to say anything except that they were the most splendid that money could buy. Of the

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music there is something interesting to tell.

The Czar's Russian band was in Paris. Up to that time only one private individual had been able to secure its services, and that was the Duchess Rohan, a favorite of the Russian court. But Thomas F. Walsh wanted that band for his dinner to the King of the Belgians, and when others laughed at the idea of his procuring it he only shrugged his shoulders and tapped the pocket where he carried his check book. And the band played.

Walsh and King Leopold had first met at Ostend, where the Colorado man was touring France and Belgium in a special train of five palace cars. The King dined with him on board the train. They talked money. His Majesty complained that he was making only 3 per cent. on his investments, and that the revenue was a mighty uncertain matter at that.

"Why, I draw 10 per cent.," said Walsh blithely, "and it's a dead certainty."

After that King Leopold took a special interest in Walsh and cross-examined him closely about mines and mining in America.

Walsh is about six feet tall and weighs 195 pounds. His full mustache is reddish, although his hair is brown. His eyes are his most striking feature. They are blue and seem to pierce through and through a man. When he is angry they probably blaze fiercely. His hands are now soft but firm, but in shaking hands with him you can feel a callous spot or two, which in some men you would attribute to golf, but which in Walsh probably date from early days, when his hands earned his bread.

"Mr. Walsh," he was asked, "is it true that King Leopold of Belgium has put several million dollars into your hands and told you to go ahead and invest it as you choose and let him know what you had done when it was all over?"

"Oh, no," replied Walsh, "that is not true at all. I have no money of the King's."

"Is it true that you are a half partner in the King's Congo mines?"

"No, I am not a half partner. In fact, I am not a partner at all—as yet. I have an agreement or understanding with the King whereby I am going to look into his mineral possessions."

"Will you go to the Congo Free State yourself?"

"No, I hardly think so—at least not right away. I shall send one of the miners who has worked for me for years."

"What will be your part in the development of the country?"

"Why, I'll be a"—Walsh stopped and began again. "I'll be—oh, well, I hardly think I can answer that now. It will all depend."

"You will be interested, beyond a doubt, will you not, in one way or another?"

"Oh, yes, I'll be interested," he replied in evident relief at dropping the subject. The talk turned upon Walsh's European trip.

"If you say anything about the entertainments I give in Paris," he said, "please correct the idea which these clippings gave," showing a handful of clippings which had just come to him. "These seem to imply that I entertained for the purpose of—of, well—of showing off, as

the little boys say. Nothing was further from my thoughts."

"Is it true that each of the dinners you gave, with the music and flowers and all that sort of thing, cost \$40,000?"

"That is something I'd a little rather not talk about," he replied. "I will say this, though, whatever I did I tried to do in the very best possible way. If I had some artists to sing, I had the very best ones to be procured. If I offered my guests wine, I wanted it to be the very best and rarest wine that exists. I didn't do this, as I said before, from pride—that is, personal pride. It was pride, but pride of my country that induced me to do it."

"How did you happen to meet the King of Belgium?"

"Oh, I was introduced to him one day and then invited him, with a member of his staff, to dine with me. We got to talking and I liked him and he liked me, I guess. He is a charming companion."

"How did it come about that he invited you to visit him at Ostend?"

"Oh, I don't know; he just did. We had a very pleasant, quiet time. It would astonish the world to know how many enterprises he is interested in as a private individual."

"You were asked, were you not, to invest in the International Canal Company?"

"Yes," Walsh replied with a smile, "I was asked to invest in many things."

"Is it true that you recently refused \$35,000,000 for your Camp Bird mine?"

"No, that is not so," quickly. "None of my mines are for sale, either in whole or part. I like to own what I have myself."

"Is it true, Mr. Walsh, that you worked as a prospector for some years?"

"Well, hardly that. I have never gone out entirely alone or on an entirely blind trail, as most prospectors do. When some one has told me of a claim which he thought was good I have gone out and looked it over, or when years ago I was convinced that there was gold or silver or copper in a region I used to take a trip there and look it over, but I never wandered around the country without a definite prospective point."

"How about that hotel for your employees at Camp Bird? Do you find that it pays you?"

"Pays me? I don't expect nor want it to pay me. That isn't my object. I built it and run it to make them more comfortable. I believe every man has much more good in him than had if you can only get it out of him, and I always try to get at the good and help any man I know. That's one reason, I think, why men work harder for me than they do for most men. I have had my superintendents and engineers and executive men for years, and they all like me, I think. I pay them large salaries, perhaps, but I think they like me for other reasons. It makes me happy to think so, at any rate. I like to help other men, if they are decent fellows. I don't care for society particularly, although we have been received everywhere with the greatest cordiality. I am perfectly happy as I am, with my wife and children and business."

THEATRICALS.

The Meffert-Eagle Stock Company will present "The Corsican Brothers" at the Temple as the offering for the coming week, and a singular coincidence is that Robert Mantell, who achieved his first great success in this play, is to be at a rival theater in a different play. The management of the Temple promises an unusually elaborate presentation. The dramatization is that of Howard Hall, whose "Soldier of the Empire" met with such distinct success at the Temple a few weeks since. Robert Wayne will play the dual role of Louis de Franchi and Fabian de Franchi. The play has been condensed by Mr. Hall, and is not only bright and artistic, but contains many striking situations. Scenery has been painted especially for this production, and effects indicated in the author's manuscript will be carried out to the letter, making the piece one of the most complete presentations of the great play ever seen here.

The New York Herald, in commenting on the Dewey Burlesques, while appearing at the Dewey Theater, on Fourteenth street, New York, said: "A better show impossible." This company will appear at the Buckingham next week, with the original cast, scenery and costumes that characterized its long run in the metropolis—in fact, the same show in every detail. The burlesque presented is a unique satire entitled "David's Harem," and it is claimed to be the most sumptuous affair ever seen on a burlesque stage. A feature of the bill are the twenty girls, who appear as "Les Belles Zouzaves," as is also "La FaFalla," the queen of light and beauty.

Manager Shaw will present the patrons of the Avenue next week one of this season's best attractions, Robert Mantell in his new play, "A Free Lance," which has met with favor wherever produced. It is said that the handsome and historically correct scenery and costumes, that always characterize his productions, are again noticeable. The play is a romantic drama, with its scene laid in North Germany in the year 1450. It is described as strong and full of action, and will give Mantell special opportunity for the display of his talents.

No doubt a large audience will greet the Priscilla Dramatic Club at Library Hall next Wednesday evening, when "A Noble Outcast" will be given a strong presentation. The members of the company have worked hard for the past month and will present a first-class production. Between the acts there will be several pleasing solos and specialties. After the performance dancing will follow in Prof. Dowd's academy.

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In view of the exorbitant price of coal in this country, says the Liverpool Daily Post, Ireland is likely to benefit greatly in the coming winter. "Turf, black turf," as the old Irish song says, is already rather a common feature in the fuel supply of Liverpool, and yesterday for the first time in history a load of peat was delivered at a leading place of business in Exchange Buildings. The carts resemble the Galway turf carts, and the capacity is about the same. We understand that turf orders have recently been executed in the Sefton Park district of Liverpool to the entire satisfaction of customers. A Galway cart—a small load, it is true—costs 5s 6d. The turf is warm and comfortable. There seems to be chance springing up for Ireland that she never had before. She has inexhaustible "turf measures," out of which, if the supply is at a fair rate, the old country may make a fortune. A little capital and organization ought to bring about a big boom.

WOMEN RULERS.

Considerably more than half the human race is ruled by women. Two women—the Empress Dowager of China and the Queen of England—alone govern about half the entire population of the world. The third in importance is young Queen Wilhelmina of Holland, whose home land numbers less than 5,000,000 souls, but whose colonies have 30,000,000. Spain is ruled by a woman, Queen Regent Christina, in the minority of her son. It is expected that the Queen mother Margherita will have great influence over her son's kingdom, but her case is not needed to establish the preponderance of woman-ruled races.

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